

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Previously presented) A synthetic bottle stopper made from a plasticizer-free, foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising:

one or more thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers;
one or more branched polyolefins having a melt flow index of from 0.1 to 200 dg/min (at 2.16 kg/190°C, determined in accordance with ASTM D 1238); and
a blowing agent.

12. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein at least one of the one or more said thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers is a styrenic elastomeric block copolymer.

13. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 12, wherein said each of the styrenic elastomeric block copolymers contains one or more glassy polymer blocks made of polymerized styrene monomer in an amount of at least 80 mol% on the total monomer content of the glassy block and one or more elastomeric polymer blocks made of polymerized conjugated diene in an amount of at least 80 mol% on the total monomer content of the elastomeric block.

14. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 13, wherein at least one of the polymerized conjugated dienes is selected from butadiene and or isoprene.

15. (Previously presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 14, wherein each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer has an overall styrene content of 10 to 50% by weight.

16. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 15, wherein said each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer has a total apparent molecular weight of from 30,000 to 400,000 g/mol.

17. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 16, wherein said each styrenic elastomeric block copolymer is a selectively hydrogenated block copolymer wherein the vinyl content of the conjugated diene block is at least 35 mol% based on the total diene content.

18. (Withdrawn) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 17, wherein said the one or more styrenic elastomeric block copolymers comprises a triblock copolymer or a mixture of a diblock copolymer and a triblock copolymer.

19. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 18, wherein said the one or more styrenic elastomeric block copolymers comprises a mixture of a diblock copolymer and a triblock copolymer, comprising:

a mixture of an S-EB-S triblock copolymer having a total molecular weight of about 50,000 to about 100,000; and

an S-EP diblock copolymer having a total molecular weight of about 120,000 to about 200,000.

20. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein said at least one of the one or more branched polyolefins is selected from the group consisting of a polymer of 1-butene and a high melt strength polymer of propene.

21. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 20, wherein said at least one of the one or more branched polyolefins is poly-1-butene having a melt index of about 0.4 dg/min g/10min.

22. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 20, wherein said the branched polyolefins are present in an amount of 10 to 100 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said the thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers.

23. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 22, wherein said the branched polyolefins are present in an amount of 30 to 80 parts by weight per 100 parts by weight of said the thermoplastic elastomeric block copolymers.

24. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 11, wherein said the blowing agent is present in an amount from 1 to 10 %wt, based on the weight of the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition.

25. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 24, wherein said the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azodicarbonamide, sodium bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

26. (Currently amended) A synthetic bottle stopper made from a plasticizer-free, foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising:

100 parts by weight of a mixture of a selectively hydrogenated styrene/conjugated diene multi block copolymer and a selectively hydrogenated styrene/conjugated diene diblock copolymer;

10 to 100 parts by weight of a branched polyolefin selected from the group consisting of a polymer of 1-butene and a high melt strength polymer of propene, said the branched polyolefin having a melt flow index of from 0.1 to 200 dg/min g/10min (at 2.16 kg/190 C, determined in accordance with ASTM D 1238); and

a blowing agent in an amount of from 1 to 10 percent weight, based on the total weight of the foamed thermoplastic elastomer composition.

27. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein said the branched polyolefin is poly-1-butene having a melt index of about 0.4 dg/min g/10min.

28. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein said the blowing agent is selected from the group consisting of azodicarbonamide, sodium bicarbonate, and mixtures thereof.

29. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 26, wherein said the multi block copolymer is an S-EB-S triblock copolymer and said the diblock copolymer is an S-EP diblock copolymer, and wherein the amount of the triblock copolymer is about about 70 to about 90 parts by weight and the amount of the diblock copolymer is about 30 to about 10 parts by weight.

30. (Currently amended) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 29, wherein said the S-EB-S triblock copolymer has a total molecular weight of about 50,000 to about 100,000 and said the S-EP diblock copolymer has a total molecular weight of about 120,000 to about 200,000.

31. (Previously presented) The synthetic bottle stopper of claim 30 having a density less than 0.7 kg/m³.